

The Q-Match

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 809, Warren, Ohio 44482

Webpage - www.w8vtd.org Editor - pkozup@juno.com

April, 2003

A word from the prez

Trumbull County QSO Party Motorcycle / Car Show at WARA HamFest

The weather could not have been any better last March 15 for our club's 3rd Annual QSO party. I had positioned my rover truck at my official contest starting location, which is at the school in Gustavus Township. As it became 2:00 PM, and I announced the start of the "Bill Craiger Memorial QSO Party", the radio traffic began almost immediately. I was very pleased to hear many new contesters on the frequency participating in the contest. As the day went on, there were more and more new voices and call signs to quickly get into the log. I also had some nice eye-ball QSO's as other "rovers" stopped by to say hello.

Overall there were a total of 26 different call signs logged, some not actually participating in the contest, but having fun just the same by helping the contesters out with that one elusive township.

As far as the contest results go, I am still working on that. However I can tell you that I have "dupe" sheets turned in by the following amateur operators:

Dennis Carraher – N8IVE

Fred Oliver/Sue Wagner – KC8VHC

Emily Wells – KC8RAL

Gail Wells – KC8LRH

Bud Neely – KB8OMV

Gregory Kovach – WB8WUA

If you have a "dupe" sheet to turn-in see me or call me as soon as possible. And if you happen to run into any of these folks ask them about their experience with the contest. I think if you do you'll want to be a part of it next year, if you could not make it this time.

I believe expanding the contest to other counties worked out well. There were a number of contacts outside of Trumbull County with the one that stands out most being KB3HJU / Rick in Sharon, Pa. Quite a few of us also had a good conversation with KC8UNR / Mike at Lake Milton. Overall I believe the event was a success. I am now looking for feedback from anyone on what they liked, did not like, or any ideas to make it even better. You can call me (440-548-4312) or email me at: rmaurer@sprynet.com.

On another topic, we talked at one of the recent Club Meetings about having a Motorcycle/Car Show at our Hamfest this year. I think it would be an excellent way to expand our attendance (and bank account). As well as showing the general public what Amateur Radio is all about. There are two ways to approach having this at our Hamfest. One way is to appoint a Club member as the "Motorcycle/Car Show Chair Person". They would be in charge of organizing the event at the Hamfest. I will be glad to assist in anyway I can and do have a word from the prez (cont. . .) some "planning" kits that basically lay out all you need to know. The other way

is to have a sponsor take care of the show. The difference is that part of the proceeds then goes to them for their efforts. A sponsor could be someone like "Warren Harley-Davidson" or the "Ohio ABATE" group. I would work on a letter with our Hamfest chairperson, Renee / KB8SVF, to be sent to various groups to see which one would be interested in sponsoring the event. Obviously there are pro's and con's to both ways. So give it some thought and let me know your ideas and if you would like to be the first "WARA Motorcycle / Car Show Chair Person". Either email me or lets talk about it at one of our meetings. Remember though, time is flying with April already here. So we need to get things going with this project soon.

That's all for now. I hope to hear you on the air !

73,

Your Prez, Bob, KC8PVB

Newsletter Trivia -

Who was the Q-Match Editor from Feb. 1961 – Dec. 1963 ? The answer will be found on page 4 of this issue of *The Q-Match*.

Repeater news

It has been a while since I sent an article in for *The Q-Match*. It has also been a while between trips to the repeater. Last week I stopped at the main site for a tune up stop. There has been some noise on the repeater and need to check out the three receivers there. Things went well, and no major problems were found. I checked the frequency and front-end alignment of all the receivers. None were off much.

There have been two separate noises. One seems to be a neighboring service.

It brings our repeater up when inactive and makes short bursts of noise. Seems to be more prevalent during business hours. Probably a spur on a nearby transmitter. Maybe some video from the local TV system. We have had some occasional problems since moving to this site in the early eighties and need to remember we get free rent. That should be enough said. The problem usually goes away after a time. Possibly with weather changes or maybe, they fix it. This problem is also not sever or frequent enough to worry about. On a few occasions we have tightened connections and mechanical joints on neighboring equipment. Maybe a little shot of oil on a rusted joint. Most people don't realize how critical bad tower and mechanical joints in the near field of an antenna while duplexing really are. Most of our neighbors are not duplexing.

The other noise seems to be our problem. It only comes on after the repeater is up. On a very few occasions the signal is strong enough to start to momentarily squawk. This indicates our transmitter is one of the products being fed back to the local receiver. This would be a more serious on a single site repeater, since it would also desense the receiver. The affect is at a minimum on our system. I seldom hear this noise since my trip to the site but occasionally hear it. We do have a couple of jumpers inside the repeater cabinet that are not double shielded, possibly this could help. Water in the feed line could be a possibility. If it requires climbing the tower it will have to wait till spring.

Repeater news (cont. . . .)

At the time of this writing I seldom hear either problem and do not consider

it a major problem. Many repeaters have been forced to go to PL. We have remained carrier squelch so far. I hope to stay that way but as the frequencies become more crowded this could change. I have on a few occasions put the warren receiver only on PL access. This was for only a short time till the noise passes, and the scheduler restores the receiver to normal the next time it makes a change.

I recommend all users put a 100 Hz PL tone on their transmitter. In that way, if, it becomes necessary to temporarily place a receiver on PL access you can seamlessly operate.

Another thought, most repeaters in this area use 110.9 Hz PL tone. I have sometimes thought we should change to 110.9 Hz. our present frequency, 100.0 Hz is the national open repeater frequency tone. 110.9 is the coordinated tone for this area. Just a passing thought, have no plans to make this move for now.

Dave kz8t, Repeater Coordinator

Happy birthday

Once again it's time to wish some of our club members a Happy Birthday. The following members celebrate April birthdays, so if or when you see them be sure to wish them the best on their special day.

- 4/3 K8BXT ~ Don Lovett
- 4/4 Assoc. ~ Coralyn "Corky" Clisby
- 4/11 KB8YWZ ~ Nixon O'Neil
- 4/14 KC8LMB ~ Sam Bickel
- 4/16 Assoc. ~ Eileen Gabele
- 4/29 NA8Z ~ Keith Sawyer
- 4/27 WD8KNJ ~ Al Johnson
- 4/29 N8XUO ~ Kris Vadas

To each of these WARA members we extend an ARL FORTY-SIX on their special day.

Ohio section news

APRIL SECTION NEWS.

First let's honor all Ohio Section Hams serving the United States Armed Forces during the Iraq Campaign. And pray for everyone's safe return.

In our memorial, we also remember three ham radio operators, Dr. Kalpana Chawla, KD5ESI (sk); Dr. Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU (sk); and David Brown, KC5ZTC (sk); who all lost their lives in the STS 107 Columbia Shuttle.

Also check out on this Web Site for the complete list of Ohio's Ham Radio Bicentennial Events. Ashland ARC dropped plans for the 2003 Ashland Hamfest, usually held in mid-October.

If your club has a Dayton Hamvention bus schedule, time is running out for reservations, I'll bet.

And planning for 2003 Field Day (June 28-29) is underway all through Ohio. Special pins and other materials are available from the ARRL.

Also available is a six minute video "Amateur Radio Today," a special presentation for non-ham groups, narrated by Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD (you get to see his shack). Great recruiting tool and education promotion of our special hobby.

OHIO SECT CONGRATS will be long this month as we spotlight the 12 Section officers (called the Ohio Section Cabinet) who serve the ARRL membership.

But how? Here is a quick guide on what each one does specifically. First five assistant section managers (ASM's) are
ohio section news (cont. . .)

appointed for each of five geographic divisions. These ASM's - NW Ohio - Ron Griffin, N8AEH, Findlay (n8aeh@arrl.net), SW - John Haungs, W8STX, Cincinnati (w8stx@arrl.net), NE - Bob Winston, W2THU, Cleveland (w2thu@arrl.net); SE - Connie Hamilton, N8IO, Marietta (n8io@arrl.net) and Central - Bill Carpenter, AA8EY, Westerville (aa8ey@arrl.net) - all represent the Section Manager and promote the ARRL in their individual areas. They are available for speaking to ham radio club meetings and Hamfest forums. The ARES emergency programs are all under the leadership of Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Larry Rain, WD8IHP, Mansfield (wd8ihp@arrl.net). Each of Ohio's 88 counties has an EC under his guidance. The Amateur Auxiliary is under the authority of Official Observer Coordinator, Alan Cook, N7CEU, Newark, (n7ceu@arrl.net). These Official Observer volunteers monitor our frequencies (both low-bands and repeaters) for unsafe or illegal acts. The Section Traffic Manager, Jack Wagoner, WB8FSV, Hillard (fsv@netwalk.com) organizes Ohio's fine traffic nets. State Government Liaison, Reuben Meeks, W8GUC, Vandalia (w8guc@arrl.net) works with local LGL's in reviewing all local governments' handling of ham radio matters. Biggest concern -- restrictive antenna laws, of course. Special Service Clubs and Affiliated Clubs of the ARRL in Ohio are under the guidance of Affiliated Clubs Coordinator Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, Toledo (kb8iup@arrl.net). Public relations and Ohio ham radio newsletters are the responsibility of Public Information Coordinator Scott Yonally, N8SY,

Mansfield (n8sy@arrl.net). Special technical advisors, a service to non-hams, are under the guidance of Technical Coordinator Tom Holmes, N8ZM, Tipp City (n8zm@arrl.net). Besides the basic responsibilities, two cabinet members perform special tasks. Ron Griffin edits the Ohio Section Journal - now in its 17th year and Scott Yonally is contest manager for the Ohio Section Newsletter contest - now in its 12th year. That's it. Interested in any of these areas, contact that officer or the Section Manager.

OHIO SECTION APRIL HAMFESTS:
 (12) Jackson County ARC at Coalton, More Info, contact kd8xl@aceinter.net;
 (27) Athens County ARA at Athens, More info, contact mcdanied@ohiou.edu.

de k8qoe@arrl.org.

Now for the February Traffic Reports.

Section Traffic Net Reports

Buckeye Net (Early) QNI—150 QTC--60 QTR—248 Sessions—28 Time--1845 Freq--3.577 Net Mgr--WD8KFN

Buckeye Net (Late) QNI—187 QTC--50 QTR—229 Sessions—28 Time—2200 Freq--3.577 Net Mgr--NY8V

Ohio Slow Net QNI—138 QTC—31 QTR—472 Sessions--28 Time—1810 Freq--3.708 Net Mgr--WB8KQJ

Ohio SSB Net QNI—2265 QTC—672 QTR--2793 Sessions—84 Times--1030, 1615, 1845 Freq--3.9725 Net Mgr--N8IO

Trivia answer

Dick Eilers, K8JLK

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Two meter net

Have you checked into the W8VTD Two Meter Net lately? We're getting some good lists of check-ins, and some interesting news on the net. For the months of April and May the NCS schedule for the net follow.

April 2 – Fred, N9BSO

April 9 – Bob, KC8PVB

April 16 – Frank, KC8PUZ

April 23 – Pete, K8OUA

April 30 – Andy, N8YR

May 7 – Fred, N9BSO

May 14 – Bob, KC8PVB

May 21 – Frank, KC8PUZ

May 28 – Pete, K8OUA

Remember, if you're looking to expand your AR horizons, you might look into trying your hand at Net Control. It's not too difficult, is a lot of fun, and a great way to pick up callsigns of local hams. For more info contact Fred, N9BSO – try him at creacher@onecom.com.

Dayton bus

Mike Yakopec, KA8WMF, is once again acting as the local booking agent for the Dayton bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention this year. Mike has been in contact with CARS, the Cleveland Amateur Radio group, about their bus, and has been told that there are still a number of seats available for a trip down. Cost is \$30, which covers the cost of the bus only, Hamvention ticket is extra. The bus leaves Brecksville at about 2.00 AM or so, arrives at the door of Hare Arena in Dayton at just about opening time (after a breakfast on the way), leaves at about 5.00 PM in time to get us back to Brecksville at about 9.00 PM or so. If you are interested, contact Mike by phone at 330-530-2793 before 2pm.

Both tickets and time to reserve a space are limited .

Arrl notes

VANITY CALL FEES MAY RISE – The FCC proposed March 26 increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall.

ARRL CONTINUING ED COURSE-- The next ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) Program course soon will be available. "VHF/UHF: Beyond the Repeater" exposes students great variety of radio activities in the world above 50 MHz. The new course will join seven others now offered by ARRL's Certification and Continuing Education Program. For more info go to <http://www.arrl.org/cce>.

Bicentennial activities

The following are Ohio Bicentennial activities occurring during the month of April.

Greater Cleveland Amateur Radio Committee Special Event Station K8ZOO and K8CRF located at the Cleveland Rain Forest Operates throughout 2003 on all bands. Contact: Bob Winston, W2THU: w2thu@arrl.net

Northeast Ohio Bicentennial Amateur Radio Club KO8HIO Special Event Station. Contact Anthony A. Luscre: aluscre@neo.rr.com Website: <http://www.qsl.net/k8zt/ko8hio.html>

skywarn training held

A good turnout of local hams and others interested in weather observing showed up on March 18 for Skywarn Training sponsored by the National Weather Service. The Weather Service official who presented did an excellent job in describing the way severe

SKYWARN TRAINING (CONT. .

.) weather cells form and the results of these developments. He stated that hams are still preferred as weather observers and reporters because they tend to be well organized and by using radio free telephones and computers for others to use.

Monthly calendar

4/1 WARA meeting TCTC 7.30 PM
 4/2 W8VTD 2 mtr net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
 4/5 Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
 4/7 Brunch Frmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
 4/9 W8VTD 2 mtr net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
 4/9-11 YL DX Contest CW, YLRL, see Apr QST pg 97
 4/12-13 QRP ARCI Spring QSO party, see Apr QST pg 97

4/14 Brunch Frmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
 4/15 WARA mtg TCTC 7.30 PM
 4/16 W8VTD 2 mtr net 146.97MHz 9 PM
 4/18 Amateur Radio Day See Apr QST pg 81
 4/19 Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
 4/19 TARA PSK31 Rumble see Apr QST pg 98
 4/21 Brunch Frmngton Sr Ctr 11 AM
 4/23 W8VTD 2 mtr net 146.97MHz 9 PM
 4/26 Lunch Covered Bridge Rest 12 N
 4/28 Brunch Frmngton Sr Ctr 11 AM
 4/28-5/11 Sp Evnt Stn Lake Co ARA N8BC Ohio Bicentennial Celeb'n see Apr QST pg 99
 4/30 W8VTD 2 mtr net 146.97MHz 9 PM